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Saiva Prakasa
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INTHUSATHANAM (The Hindu Organ)

(The only Newspaper in Ceylon for the Hindus)
PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Estd. Sept. 11, 1889

JAFFNA, FRIDAY MAY 2, 1975

PHONE NO. 356

The Saiva Paripalana Sabha: Its History, Aims and Ideals

BY

Siva U. Somasgaram M. A., Ed., F. R., Econ. S.

(Continued from last issue) tradition of the great Navalar,

The next field of work is education. The great Navalar founded schools, but they were few and far between, as against the Mission schools that dominated the scene. The ice was broken but there was still far to go. His efforts to start an English College proved futile against the entrenched interests of the Missions and it was left to the Sabha, which had inherited his tradition, to found the first big Hindu institution of its kind, the Jaffna Hindu College. After a few years, as big financial interests were involved and the Departmental rules required specialised work, this branch of activity was handed over to the Incorporated body, the Board of Directors of the Jaffna Hindu College, a section of the Sabha. This Board extended its activities by taking under its management a number of affiliated Colleges and Schools and in 1960, when all the schools were taken over by the Government, this Board was the leading educational organisation for the Tamils. The Hindu Board of Education which had among its workers many doughty fighters like Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan, Sir Wythilingam Duraiswamy and the present survivor of the tradition known as "Hindu Board" Rajaratnam also owes its inspiration to the educational work of the Sabha and was ably supported by it, during the Board's chequered but successful career. Sir Ponnambalam Ramanathan who created an educational tradition in his own grand and inimitable style, had learnt from the experiences of the Sabha and probably improved on it. The Sabha can hence claim to have led the field of high educational traditions in the Saiva style, and ably carried on the purpose it would canvas

This work of the Sabha has not ceased with the take over in 1960. The management and all the assets of the schools have been taken over by the Government and the Boards may cease to exist, their 'raison d'être' having disappeared but the onus of fighting for the maintenance of the tradition of Saiva Education to our community devolves on the Saiva Paripalana Sabha which had been responsible for the birth of this movement and had sedulously fostered Saiva traditions in the field of education. In the present state of our political and national existence, the need for a powerful guardian of Saiva Education cannot be challenged. The Government, pulled in various directions by diverse interests and ideologies, may be misled in spite of its good intentions but the Sabha has the sacred duty of fighting for the continuance of these traditions in our schools. Big onslaughts are made on our religion and culture by various pressure groups and the spectre of communist ideologies is hovering over every part of the world and it requires great courage and vigilance on the part of the Sabha to face all these odds and save the youth of our community. There are other organisations busy in this field but the Sabha has to set the right standard for Saiva education.

the support of all political parties and carry great weight in the ultimate decisions in the elections. Social reform on the principles of the Saiva Faith and economic regeneration on these lines are among the laudable aims of the Sabha. The Sabha is fully convinced that the Saiva way of life is the best way for our community and would strive to build up our society on these lines.

The chief organ on for the work of the Sabha is the Hindu Organ and the InthuSathanam which is as old as the Sabha itself and has among its editors and managers a distinguished galaxy of members of the Sabha. Among its editors were Mr. Chellappa pillai the Founder Editor, Mr. A. Cathiravelu, Mr. A. Sabapathy, (Mr. M. S. Eliatamby, Mr. M. M. Sabaratnasinghe, Mr. M. S. Rasaretnam, Mr. V. Naga-lingam, Mr. T. Kailasapillai and Mr. V. T. Sambandhan. They had laboured hard for the propagation of the ideals of the Sabha and they are no more. Mr. T. Muttusamipillai the present

President had graced the editorial chair for a few years and the journalistic standards are ably maintained by the present holders Mr. Nama Sivapirakasam, Proctor and Mr. M. Mylvaganam. Among its managers were Mr. T. Kailasapillai, Mr. S. T. M. P. Sithamparanatha Chettiar, Mr. S. Ambikaipagan, and Mr. S. Adchalingam, who had all worked hard to build up the Press and the journals, tiding over critical periods. Their names will go down to history as great workers in the field of Religion and Social development.

The next field is social culture and religious revival and the maintenance of the grand tradition of our faith, against the welter of confused ideologies that maintain in the country. The Sabha is interested in politics only as far as it impinges on religion and the Saiva way of life and for this

Another branch of activity of the Sabha is the publication of religious literature and Text books.

The Problem of Moral and Religious Education (Continued)

V. SUBRAMANIAM
Saiva-Pulavar

The aberrations (moral slips) we see in the shape of agitations for inter-dining and inter-marriages are the results of the indiscriminate desire to commingle with all as sons of the same father. Such agitations may be wholly out of place in respect of certain characters who ought to be kept at a distance both for the purity of the better placed individual and in the interests of society as a whole. It is easy to call our fore-fathers fools; but difficult to prove it.

Our system of education should therefore be so altered, amended or codified as to produce men of sterling character and exemplary moral life, men who will not sacrifice their life and powers and aspirations to the Moloch of money-making, who will serve as the backbone of the country, who will hoist the banner of truth, who will not shrink from devotion to duty at any sacrifice of personal interest and who as Wordsworth says, will add sun-shine to day-light by making the happy happier.

It is sometimes contended by men who ought to know better that conscience has no compelling power that the dictates of religion have no binding force, that in too many cases, however, conscience is only like the transparent waters which may at any moment become turbid, as soon as self-interest steps in, and that with but few exceptions. His proposition holds good in the case of the highest as well as the lowest minds.

It is also contended that religion is only a shibboleth for the rascality of its ministers that that the argumentum baculinum is the last argument of even enlightened kings and politicians, notwithstanding

all their fine theories about the rationale of civilised governments, that shocking is the frequency of our experience that men of superior intelligence and industry soon forget themselves and collude with one another for the purpose of opposing the progress of the worthy portion of the rising generation, that repeated is our disappointment at thus finding that are in practice two of our most abused words having but little more than an academic value, and that the victims in such cases have nothing for it but to act on on the principle "diamond cut diamond", unless they are content to succumb. An egregious failure to catch the cardinal spirit and significance of religion has resulted in the advancement of these erroneous and false views.

(To be continued)

An Achievement

Fifty years of successful career as a lawyer of lucrative practice must certainly be acclaimed as a creditable achievement. This professional performance of Mr. C. C. Somasgaram J. P., U. M., Attorney-at Law Jaffna was hailed by his colleagues and Judges of Jaffna at a dinner party given in his honour.

Mr. Somasgaram was the youngest lawyer to be appointed Crown Proctor which office he held till he reached his sixtieth year. He acted as District Judge, Additional Judge and Magistrate on several occasions.

Mr. Somasgaram is a social worker, religious devotee and was once a Member of the Municipal Council Jaffna.

THOUGHTS TO BE TREASURED

என்னில் யாரும் எனக்கு இனியார் இல்லை
என்னிலும் இனியான் ஒருவன் உள்ளன்
என்னுள்ளே உயிர்ப்பாய்ப் புறம்போந்து புக்கு
என்னுள்ளே சிற்கும் இன்னம்பர் ஈசுனே.

Dearer to me than I there's none,
Dearer to me than I there's One,
Like breath in me in out moves He,
Innumber's Lord, He dwells in me.



திருச்சித்தம்பகம்
நாட்சிவாய்வை நானும் கீழ்க்கீழும்
நாட்சிவாய்வை நானும் வீட்டுக்கீழும்
நாட்சிவாய்வை நானும் கூத்துக்கீழும்
திருச்சித்தம்பகம்

Hindu Organ

FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1975

SPECTACULAR SERVICE

May 2, the nineteenth day of Chiththirai, is a date that has a special significance. Eighty seven years ago, the elite of the Saiva devotees of Jaffna, inspired by the enlightening thoughts, speeches and writings of the Great Navaular, established the Jaffna Saiva Paripalana Sabha, resolving to propagate the hereditary religion of the Tamil people by means of education based on religious knowledge. Since then the Sabha has made vast strides of progress across the past seven decades and presently occupies a position of pre-eminence as a guiding organization for Saivites.

The trust that has been placed on the Sabha can be gauged from the several charitable Religious Trusts which have been vested on the Sabha, Punnianachi Trust, Karthigai Madalayam Trust being the most noteworthy.

The publication of text books for Saiva students has been a significant contribution. The periodicals, the Hindu Organ and Iathusathanam continue to render a great service to the public emulating the excellent example of the glorious past.

We are confident that Parameshvara's blessings will continue to enable the Sabha which is being managed by a devoted team of selfless workers under able guidance, grow from splendour to splendour.

Northern Transport not Guaranteed?

Who could have ingeniously worked day and night to derail a heavily crowded passenger train? The timing and the placing clearly reveal that the murderous miscreants must be those who wait for plenty of prey, those whose profession is to collect intelligence of the movements of trains and spot out the occasion where unusually large numbers are obliged to travel after enjoying a continuous holiday in their homes.

The travelling public are entitled to demand a full inquiry into the Madawachi — Vavuniya Railway incident to furnish the people with com-

plete information of the loss of life, limb and luggage along with the facts revealed by investigation. Thefts, robbery and looting in trains, trucks, omnibuses and cars have become a continuing menace and threat to freedom of travel. Passengers are compelled to avoid travelling by night transport with the result that day trains and buses become heavily over loaded.

PARTITION NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF POINT PEDRO

No. 12570

Sithamparapillai Palar of
Karanavai South

Vs. Plaintiff

1. Elaiyathamby Siana-
durai of Karanavai
South and 5 others
Defendants

It is hereby notified that action No. 12570 has been instituted in the District Court of Point Pedro under the Partition Act No. 16 of 1951 for the partition and / or sale of this land called Thehilantottam Naduvitpulam Chempadu Odai in extent 124 lachams v.c. and 5 10/32 kulis. Of this lot No. 12 of Plan No. 1281 dated 3-6-53 and prepared by Mr. V. Seeva-ratnam Licensed Surveyor and filed of record in Case No. 4248 of the District Court of Point Pedro contain an extent of 30 lms. v. c and 12 kulis situated at Karanavai, Veerapathirayan curichchy, in Udupiddy Parish, Vadamaradchy division, in the District of Jaffna, Northern Province.

The defendants in the abovenamed partition action were summoned to appear in the District Court of Point Pedro on 26-6-74.

By order of Court

M. Nadarajah
Registrar.

Drawn by
K S Mattucomaraswamy
Attorney-at-Law
for Plaintiff

1, 2-5

(From page 3)

The Sabha pioneered this field. The great Navaular himself started a press and published his own books but this was done from Madras. With the passage of time acute competition set in this field. The private sector unfettered by rules and responsibilities and managed by single capitalist individuals was at an advantage, as against the Sabha in recent times. The Government also has entered the field of publication of text books are monopolised by Government. the sacred responsibility of setting the standards and the production of books correctly interpreting the Saiva scriptures devolves on the Sabha and justifies the support of all true lovers of the faith. Considerable initiative tact and managerial abilities are required for this purpose and the Sabha has in its fold many educationists who could serve it ably in this field.

To summarise, the Sabha was organised at a time when the Saiva religion and cultural traditions were dying off and the great Navaular, who started the great struggle against odds single handed, had been cut off in his prime. Changing the faith and adopting Western

வான்முறை வழாது பெய்த வளிவன்று ஏதுக மன்னன்
கொஞ்சமுறை அரசு கெட்க குறைவிலை தயிர்கள் வாழும்
நான்முறை மற்றும் கொஞ்சம் நற்றுவும் வேல்லி மல்க
கொஞ்சமென்கொள் வைவதீந் வளங்குக உலக டெல்லாம்.

Printed and published by the Proprietors, the Saiva Paripalana Sabha, Jaffna, at their Saiva Prakasa Press 450 K. K. S. Road Vannarponnai, Jaffna on Friday May 2, 1975.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF R. N. SIVAPRAKASHAM

stood the test of ages. The Sabha has to adapt itself to the new phases in the struggle. It has many allies in the form of various types of associations that work in the field as mentioned above. As the oldest among them and as the pioneers in this field with a wealth of experience, it becomes the responsibility of the Sabha to give the lead, guide and co-ordinate these activities and make the work effective. Workers and funds are needed and every lover of the community and the Saiva religion should support this great cause, each in his own way. The Sabha looks forward to the future with courage and confidence. May the Almighty Ishwara bless the work of this Sabha and endow it with diligent workers and adequate funds.

